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Filmmaker Claims CIA Kept Innocent Man Jailed to Cover Up Drug Trafficking

By Liat Clark

"This is a story about an extreme miscarriage of justice. It involves the CIA, the US Army and a shitload of cocaine."

April 23, 2013 "Information Clearing House" - "Wired" - "If you want to, you can question anything to death," says director Eric Stacey, his melodic Californian drawl coming slow and steady down the line. "But my point of view is, if enough people are writing about the same thing from different backgrounds and perspectives, there's got to be something to it."

Stacey, who grew up in old Hollywood watching his father work alongside Hitchcock and Capra, is speaking about his film *Affidavit*, currently posted on crowdfunding site USA Projects somewhere between a holocaust memorial made from six million toothpicks and Claud Zeeb's Love Utopility Vehicles (we're not sure either). If made, *Affidavit* will dramatise the story of army private William Tyree Jr, currently serving a life term at a maximum security prison in Massachusetts for ordering colleague Erik Aarhus to kill his 22-year-old wife Elaine. Stacey believes he is innocent, and if the promise of a shitload of cocaine isn't enough to entice, how about the CIA supporting Panamanian drug trafficking, army personnel deliberately withholding information that could free Tyree and widespread surveillance of the judiciary by intelligence services?

In 1980 the courts alleged that Elaine Tyree's murder was financially motivated -- Tyree, stationed at Fort Devens, had taken out life insurance policies in the months preceding his wife's death. An affidavit allegedly penned a few months later by Colonel Edward Cutolo -- in command at Fort Devens -- recounts a far more sinister motive. It details his, Tyree's, and CIA and Army personnel's involvement in and knowledge of Special Forces missions enabling the transportation of cocaine from Colombia to Panama's Albrook Army Airfield to help in the funding of, among other things, Manuel Noriega's apparent fight against communism. It also recounts details of surveillance at Tyree's home that would have exonerated the private.

It's pretty incredible stuff, pointing the finger of blame at CIA officials including Edwin Wilson (later convicted of illegally selling arms to Libya), that may or may not have been operating with the agency's direct knowledge. In the years 1975-76, according to Cutolo's affidavit and Colonel James "Bo" Gritz's book *Called to Serve*, operation Watchtower involved the erection of beacon towers to allow low-flying planes to operate undetected between Bogota and Albrook. Follow-up operation Orwell was allegedly an effort to monitor politicians, judges and churches in case word of Watchtower got out. Wired.co.uk has not seen an original copy of Cutolo's affidavit, but has a photocopied version of a Colonel William Wilson's affidavit verifying the facts. Wilson, a well-respected former Green Beret and investigator for the US Army Inspector General, spent five years investigating Cutolo's affidavit, interviewing 200 people including former members of the CIA. Though Wired.co.uk cannot attest to the authenticity of the document, it appears to have been notarised by an official contracted by the State of Florida.

It's such an extraordinary story that it's easy to cry conspiracy theorist. In its historical context, however, it begins to sound less far-fetched. The alleged missions took place in the years preceding the Iran-Contra affair, an arms-for-hostages scandal that saw the US break an arms embargo with the Middle Eastern nation amid allegations of related funds being diverted to anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua, known as the Contras. An investigation, the

John Kerry Committee report, found "foreign policy considerations [had] interfered with the US's ability to fight the war on drugs", US officials maintaining airstrips used in "covert Contra supply operations" were fully aware drug traffickers were also using the strips, and the State Department contracted four companies owned and operated by drugs traffickers "to supply humanitarian assistance to the Contras". It does not go as far as saying the CIA was complicit, but the implication that it was routinely turning a blind eye to illegal activities to the benefit of US foreign policy -- and detriment of US citizens as drug imports spiked -- was clear.

Why then is Tyree's story, just a few years before the Iran-Contra affair and a few years after Watergate, so hard to believe? Why, despite historical context and testimony, is it still so ridiculous to believe government is so at fault? Why is the conspiracy theorist sidelined in a world where our expectations of state morality have been so diminished?

"We live in an information wilderness," political documentary maker Eugene Jarecki tells Wired.co.uk, "and so conspiracy theorists have been made a laughing stock by government and their friends in the media, because of course it's a good idea to marginalise critics and turn them into people that shouldn't be taken seriously. What better way to undermine them? Donald Rumsfeld referred to the information wilderness as information asymmetry -- his goal was to maintain information asymmetry over his adversaries, but who were his adversaries? Was it Al Qaida, the Iraqi people? I think the real answer, in part, is the American people."

Jarecki has spent his career challenging the status quo and asking uncomfortable questions. The subject matter of his films -- racially and socially-motivated US drug policy in *The House I Live In*, and the US government routinely misleading the public into war in *Why We Fight* -- could have seen him marginalised as a conspiracy theorist. But with credentials like two Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prizes to his name, Jarecki's musings have more sway than an imprisoned army private's.

He argues that a government-induced information wilderness inevitably breeds theorists like himself and Stacey: "When you have an information asymmetry, no wonder you're made to feel ridiculous hypothesising about what's going on. When we're deprived of the information necessary to understand what our government is doing, we're left to hypothesise about the particulars of a story like the Iran-Contra."

There are plenty of examples of US government involvement, to some degree, in enabling drug trafficking (see George Washington University's National Security Archives). But over the years stories have gained little traction. In 1996 investigative reporter Gary Webb published a series of articles in the *San Jose Mercury News* on Contras smuggling cocaine to LA and the CIA turning a blind eye to ensure funds trickled back to the rebel group (which, since the Boland Amendment was passed, Reagan could no longer openly financially support). "His allegations have never been undermined in any meaningful way by those in power," comments documentary-maker Jarecki, yet Webb's publishers backed away from the story as controversy stirred. If it wasn't for the internet, Webb said, his story might not have reached so many people, having been published by a local newspaper. Webb struggled to find work again over the years, before his suicide in 2004.

"There's no question the mainstream media is reluctant to write about events well documented, and incidences of wrongdoing involving official agencies and drug trafficking," Jonathan Marshall, author of *Cocaine Politics: Drugs, Armies, and the CIA in Central America*, told Wired.co.uk. "And that reluctance helps breed speculation. It lends credence to the idea that there is some suppression of truth going on. It's partly because there's a well-deserved feeling that mainstream media and official investigations have not adequately pursued legitimate stories; it opens the door for conspiracy theorising."

Jarecki argues the US government has repeatedly used "threats" to national security to pursue any interest it sees fit -- this agenda is widely picked up in the press, and perpetuated by sidelining tales of "rare" wrongdoings. In the case of Watchtower and Orwell, both fit nicely into the anti-communist interest of the day.

Gary Webb on C.I.A. Trafficking of Cocaine



"National interest becomes a relevant and guiding term in the shaping of public policy," he says. "Reagan had a personal agenda to be an anti-communist, that made him see Iran-Contra activities as a no-holds bar approach to preventing the spread of communism -- he believed it was so worthy one would stop at nothing to pursue it, even violating the principles of democracy supposedly to defend it. When US Congress blocks him from being involved with the Contras because of their human rights violations, in an act that symbolises the great disconnect between what the public wants and what Reagan wants, he figures he'll get money elsewhere."

So if an individual like Stacey senses there is something awry, an injustice or a false truth, how do they relay it in a meaningful way? Moreover, how can it have any affect on a public opinion already so under duress by ideological propaganda?

Kendrick Oliver, reader in American History at the University of Southampton, suggests an inherent problem in communication is that "truth tellers" believe it is simply enough to do just that: speak their truth.

"The Vietnam My Lai massacre happened in March 1968 and was revealed in November 1969. It was a subject of major headlines with visual content of atrocities. But it didn't change opinion. By that point in the Vietnam war those opposed were opposed -- people continued to support the war and a President persevering the reasons: communism. You assume if you throw content in the direction of an audience then like a magic bullet it will affect consciousness and opinions, balance and consensus. I'm less certain that's the case."

Oliver points to *The Death Of Others*, by Executive Director of MIT's Centre for International Studies John Tirman, in which the research scientist highlights the indifference demonstrated by the American public to the

death toll of "those we fight and those we fight for". Tirman wrote the book after a press release sent out by his department revealing civilian casualties in Iraq stretched to the hundreds of thousands, made no splash whatsoever. "He subsequently wrote this book on American responses to reports of civilian casualties from World War I to the Vietnam War and found more or less the same thing," says Oliver. "There are arguments it's to do with American frontier ideology, but I don't know too many examples where a nation anywhere has been called to conscious. There's a pattern, whether it's indifference or an unwillingness to spend one's time thinking about these things."

For this reason, Oliver does not believe *Affidavit* can have the effect its creator is hoping for. "It sounds like a noble gesture, and I hope it gets made, but I do wonder whether it will find an audience or whether the audience will just be the usual suspects that like to listen to these things. So it won't actually make much of a difference."

Nevertheless, he continues, "There's a need for these films to be made to hasten a kind of accounting; to make the public more aware of the things government has been doing behind the scenes".

Aside from finding an audience, director Jarecki believes Stacey's project may also struggle to find funding due to its conspiracy theory rhetoric. "There's nothing wrong in what I read in the suggestions of *Affidavit*, but there is if you read it as someone being asked for crowdfunding."

"You have to walk very carefully, because it's become easy to be marginalised as a conspiracy theorist if you try to define what the wizard's doing behind the curtain. It's almost like you're looked down upon if you express your democratic right -- no, obligation -- to ask questions about the running of your government. Information asymmetry is designed to leave those of us who critique the system in a state of looking ridiculous. We are not ridiculous."

Trouble is, even those in the know are skeptical about the "truths" behind the affidavits. Alfred McCoy, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison -- whose book on US involvement in Golden Triangle drug cartels the CIA attempted to quash -- does not hold much stead in Tyree's claims. "Personally I'm skeptical about the agency having direct involvement," he told Wired.co.uk. "It's not how they work. Usually they have a mission to affect a certain outcome with minimal intrusion, working with operatives to create a favourable climate such as a change of government. They disappear completely, knowing assets are in place."

Cocaine Politics author Marshall agrees: "I've covered that period and not seen any independent verification of Watchtower or any event mentioned here. I would be very cautious before I put much faith in it. In my view there was direct involvement with people in drug trafficking, but the CIA was not involved directly with drug trafficking. It's not as if the CIA has a small budget. There's ample legitimate material out there, and I'm sure there's many things we don't know, but it's important to be scrupulous checking new claims."

Sources have disputed that Tyree was ever a member of the Special Forces (though both Cutolo and Wilson's affidavits point to his record being expunged to remove evidence of Watchtower and Orwell), turning the army private into something of a comic figure and common liar. Others have likewise been ridiculed for their theories. Colonel Bo Gritz for instance, who also claims he worked on Watchtower, went on to carry out dubious Rambo-style rogue trips to rescue US POWs in the 80s, thought to still be held in Vietnam and Laos. The missions were resoundingly seen as a farce and a failure. If that weren't enough to discredit the soldier of fortune, he also fears the implementation of a New World Order and was a candidate for Vice President of the extremist US Populist Party (of which former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke was also a member). But William Shatner reportedly bought the rights to his life story, so it can't all be bad...

Nevertheless, if Wilson's affidavit is accurate, the facts are damning. It states that the courtroom Tyree's case was held in was bugged (claims separately corroborated and in point 17 of this appeals court document dismissed because nothing worthwhile was taped), witnesses admitted they were coached in testimony by investigating officer Chief William Adamson and Tyree's attorney did not raise the fact that his home was searched without a warrant (this meant no inventory was taken and a diary Elaine allegedly kept containing details of Watchtower and Aarhus' criminal activities was never recovered).



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yhw777px

Apr 14, 2016



Spoils of war: Tony Blair's new jet



"There is an axis of oil-evil"

Oil tycoon George Bush seems to have something else on his mind. The treasury was pilaged by Blair for numerous supporting bloody wars. Iraq's oil vanished following invasion & \$5m worth every day since. Afghanistan, where production has "exploded" supplies 90% of the EU drugs trade



Tony Blair appears to have used his talents as a barrister to con a landslide election victory despite being an obviously evil man



My weapons experts assured me there were WMD, Tony Blair eventually claimed after criticism none could be found. The expert however claimed he had been misquoted, leaving Blair looking silly. Dr. David Kelly was killed ("not enough blood at the scene" was the verdict) & he only appeared to have one powerful enemy. Tony Blair had the perfect alibi. Everybody knew he was abroad relieving the American congressional medal of honor (it wasn't me! I was out of the country). It looks a lot like he made sure everyone knew he was away. We didn't think you did it yourself mate. They were sold them by the US to use on Iran & were found destroyed following invasion



Bohemian grove California. Black children are 'sacrificed' annually by KKK in colourful outfits in front of senior figures including presidents & Austrian born governor Arnold, seen here doing his famous Nazi salute.



From the cremation of care 2000 flyer. The skeletal remains of a Black child of around 10 yrs according to an anatomy expert. The subject of an Alex Jones documentary screened in the UK.



Black boy to burn 1908

With the fall of the Eastern block back into western hands KGB documents emerged that confirmed the story given by the man that shot Pope John Paul. Which was that it was a KGB hit via the Russian loyal Bulgarian embassy (the pope was thought to be responsible for the loss of the block). In the light of this information we can have another look at the Kennedy shooting. Like the Pope he had made himself enemy of the state No.1 forcing Russia to back down a nuclear war (Cuban missile crisis) Lee Harvey Oswald was married to a KGB officers daughter. The FBI quickly gathered & lost the evidence & Oswald was shot as he was about to make a statement. The embarrassment of the Russians would only have been matched by the embarrassment of an American president shot dead by the KGB. unlikely conspiracy theories have been pedaled by the FBI all over mainstream media to bury what is actually quite obvious.



To strip the propaganda & see the rest of the story watch BBC news 24 & Russia Today



9/11 was an attempt to establish the vision of the Ram & goat Dan 11:14 Bush here reading the goat story. The truth is America coming to fight Germany in WWII. Horns represent rulers in Biblical visions, not 747 nose cones or high rise buildings. The two of the Ram Wilhelm & Hitler. America came west over water (without touching the face of the ground)



Hanging 1908

Like Reply



terribleteens

Apr 24, 2013

I want to put my \$.02 on Gary Webb. I was shocked to discover that Mike Ruppert had rolled over on the controversy over Webb's "suicide". Ruppert claimed that it was possible for someone to shoot themselves twice in the head, but one commentator stated that the explosive report and the powder burns from a .38 would probably blind the suicider, if not knock her/him unconscious, making a second shot impossible.

My point is to learn how to do research and make up your own mind. I'm not world class in this regard, but it's still how I roll. If we view people we look up to as gods, we'll invariably find that they all have a little bit of devil in them. Besides, if we're going to be in power some day, how are we going to exercise it if we're not experienced in making sound judgments based on our own research?

Like Reply

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Matthew/Boston · 160 weeks ago

0

No time to read the story, but I once made a trip to an RCN office to get pricing on phone service. I met a RCN employee outside who was holding some sort of warm weather sales drive. He was former U.S. military. He was very talkative. We started talking and he detailed to me how he was placed on military helicopters fully armed and stole cocaine from jungle drug labs in Columbia. His job was to provide armed cover during the raids. He said the Columbians would sometimes fire back with assault rifles. He remarked how he was told if he ever repeated any of this to anyone, he'd go back to his family in a box, but that it had been years and he was no longer worried.

He said the cocaine was transported to Guatemala, and then into Texas to distributors. I asked many questions. One question I asked was why does the U.S. government do this. His answer (paraphrasing) was to bring business to the prison industrial complex.

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Reply



Obrien · 160 weeks ago

0

Gary Webb... I remember him, he exposed the Nicaragua/CIA cocaine connection. Poor fella 'committed suicide' with two, yes, TWO gunshots to the head. Of course the coroner changed the report... eventually, to one.

Sounds like Ingsoc.

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Reply **2 replies** · active 160 weeks ago



swamiolsson · 160 weeks ago

0

Yes, people die in strange ways nowadays. Some get droned. Some get suicided. Some suddenly acquire cancer from unknown carcinogens - the Devil is having a field day with his "Chosen people" and the people of "Gods own country".

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Reply




DrS · 160 weeks ago

0

Indeed although we should expect great change soon!

No thanks to the Chrisitan zionists.

Only the authentic, genuine and sincere mon ami.....

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hardlooker

Exactly BRF, yes, they have no souls. They may have started with souls, but then they sold them.

» 6 minutes ago

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Rand T

Voltaire -- Actually, I understood you the first time but thank you for the clarification.

I can see...

» 9 minutes ago

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Rand T

Greg, I have the sneaking suspicion you actually know quite a bit about economics. Is that even legal...

» 30 minutes ago

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guest9

You write, 'That Rosa Luxembourg was brutally executed, after being expelled from the US, is...

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